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Biden signs massive climate and health care legislation



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President Joe Biden reacts as House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., speaks before Biden signs the Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Minister of Justice announces Afl. 600,000 project for homeless addicts



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Biden signs massive climate and health care legislation

By ZEKE MILLER and SEUNG MIN KIM

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden signed Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law on Tuesday, delivering what he has called the "final piece" of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before the midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change — some \$375 billion over the decade — and would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit. In a triumphant signing event at the White House, Biden pointed to the law as proof that democracy — no matter how long or messy the process — can still deliver for voters in America as he road-tested a line he will likely repeat later this fall ahead of the midterms: "The American people won, and the special interests lost."

"In this historic moment, Democrats sided with the American people, and every single Republican in the Congress sided with the special interests in this vote," Biden said, repeatedly seizing on the contrast between his party and the GOP. "Every single one."

The House on Friday approved the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the Senate days earlier with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

"In normal times, getting these bills done would be a huge achievement," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said dur-



President Joe Biden signs the Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, as from left, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., and Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., watch.

Associated Press

ing the White House ceremony. "But to do it now, with only 50 Democratic votes in the Senate, over an intransigent Republican minority, is nothing short of amazing."

Biden signed the bill into law during a small ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House, sandwiched between his return from a six-day beachside vacation in South Carolina and his departure for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He plans to hold a larger "celebration" for the legislation on Sept. 6 once lawmakers return to Washington.

The signing caps a spurt of legislative productivity for Biden and Congress, who in three months have approved legislation on veterans' benefits, the semiconductor industry and gun checks for young buyers. The president and lawmakers have also responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and overwhelmingly supported NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.

With Biden's approval rating lagging, Democrats are hoping that the string of successes will jump-start their chances of maintaining control in Washington in the November midterms. The 79-year-old president aims to restore his own

standing with voters as he contemplates a reelection bid.

The White House announced Monday that it was going to deploy Biden and members of his Cabinet on a "Building a Better America Tour" to promote the recent victories. One of Biden's trips will be to Ohio, where he'll view the groundbreaking of a semiconductor plant that will benefit from the recent law to bolster production of such computer chips. He will also stop in Pennsylvania to promote his administration's plan for safer communities, a visit that had been planned the same day he tested positive for COVID-19 last month.

Biden also plans to hold a Cabinet meeting to discuss how to implement the new climate and health care law.

Republicans say the legislation's new business taxes will increase prices, worsening the nation's bout with its highest inflation since 1981. Though Democrats have labeled the measure the Inflation Reduction Act, nonpartisan analysts say it will have a barely perceptible impact on prices.

Senate Minority Whip John Thune, R-S.D., on Tuesday continued those same criticisms, although he ac-

knowledgeed there would be "benefit" through extensions on tax credits for renewable energy projects like solar and wind.

"I think it's too much spending, too much taxing, and in my view wrong priorities, and a super-charged, super-sized IRS that is going to be going after a lot of not just high-income taxpayers but a lot of mid-income taxpayers," said Thune, speaking at a Chamber of Commerce event in Sioux Falls. The administration has disputed that anyone but high earners will face increased tax scrutiny, with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen directing the tax agency to focus solely on businesses and people earning more than \$400,000 per year for the new audits.

The measure is a slimmed-down version of the more ambitious plan to supercharge environment and social programs that Biden and his party unveiled early last year.

Biden's initial 10-year, \$3.5 trillion proposal also envisioned free prekindergarten, paid family and medical leave, expanded Medicare benefits and eased immigration restrictions. That crashed after centrist Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said it was too costly, using the leverage every

Democrat has in the evenly divided Senate.

During the signing event, Biden addressed Manchin, who struck the critical deal with Schumer on the package last month, saying, "Joe, I never had a doubt" as the crowd chuckled. Later, outside the White House, Manchin said he has always maintained a "friendly relationship" with Biden and it has "never been personal" between the two, despite Manchin breaking off his negotiations with the White House last year.

"He's a little bit more vintage than I am, but not much," Manchin said of Biden.

Though the law is considerably smaller than their initial ambitions, Biden and Democrats are hailing the legislation as a once-in-a-generation investment in addressing the long-term effects of climate change, as well as drought in the nation's West.

The bill will direct spending, tax credits and loans to bolster technology like solar panels, consumer efforts to improve home energy efficiency, emission-reducing equipment for coal- and gas-powered power plants, and air pollution controls for farms, ports and low-income communities. Another \$64 billion would help 13 million people pay premiums over the next three years for privately bought health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Medicare would gain the power to negotiate its costs for pharmaceuticals, initially in 2026 for only 10 drugs. Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket prescription costs would be limited to \$2,000 annually starting in 2025, and beginning next year would pay no more than \$35 monthly for insulin, the costly diabetes drug.

Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., a powerful political ally to Biden, noted during the White House ceremony that his late wife, Emily, who battled diabetes for three decades, would be "beyond joy" if she were alive today because of the insulin cap. □

DHS watchdog rebuffs lawmakers on Secret Service testimony

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department's inspector general has refused congressional requests for documents and staff testimony about the erasure of Secret Service communication related to the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, angering top Democrats who accuse him of unlawfully obstructing their investigation.

In an Aug. 8 letter disclosed Tuesday, Inspector General Joseph Cuffari told the leaders of the House Oversight and Homeland Security committees that his office will not comply with their requests for internal documents and sit-down interviews due to the ongoing criminal investigation into deleted Secret Service text messages.

In response, House Oversight Chair Carolyn Maloney and Homeland Security Chair Bennie Thompson sent a letter Tuesday demanding Cuffari turn over documents and make his staff available to lawmakers or risk facing a potential congressional subpoena. "Your obstruction of the Committees' investigations is unacceptable, and your justifications for this non-compliance appear to reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of Congress's authority and your duties as an Inspector General," Maloney and Thompson wrote in the letter.

"If you continue to refuse to comply with our requests, we will have no choice but to consider alternate measures to ensure your compliance," they wrote.

It's just the latest back-and-forth over the text messages since mid-July, when Cuffari sent a letter to Congress disclosing that Secret Service text messages sent and received around Jan. 6, 2021, were deleted despite requests from Congress and federal investigators that they be preserved. Since then, the two House committees say they have obtained evidence that shows the inspector general's office first learned of the missing Secret Service



Members of the U.S. Secret Service Counter Assault Team walk through the Rotunda as they and other federal police forces responded as violent protesters loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Jan. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

text messages as part of its investigation into the attack on the U.S. Capitol, in May 2021. They say emails between top Homeland Security IG officials show the agency — which oversees the Secret Service — decided to abandon efforts to recover those text messages in July 2021, nearly a year before they first informed Congress they were erased.

Lawmakers want answers to why watchdog officials chose "not to pursue critical information from the Secret Service at this point in this investigation," and only decided to renew their request to DHS for certain text messages more than four months later in December 2021.

The erasure of the messages has raised the prospect of lost evidence that could shed further light on then-President Donald Trump's actions during the insurrection, particularly after testimony about his confrontation with security as he tried to join supporters at the Capitol. There are now two congressional probes into the Secret Service and the DHS handling of those communications.

The missing texts are also at the center of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack, of which Thompson is the chairman. The Secret Service has since turned over a large number of records and

documents to the committee investigating the Capitol

insurrection, but only one text message between

agents on the day before the attack and as a mob of rioters breached the Capitol building on Jan. 6.

The Secret Service has insisted that proper procedures were followed. Agency spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said last month that "the insinuation that the Secret Service maliciously deleted text messages following a request is false."

Maloney and Thompson told Cuffari that his "failure to comply with our outstanding requests lacks any legal justification and is unacceptable."

They gave his office until Aug. 23 to provide "all responsive documents" and make personnel available for interviews before lawmakers issue a congressional subpoena. □

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U.S. West hit with water cuts but rebuffs call for deeper ones

By **SAM METZ, SUMAN NAI-SHADHAM and KATHLEEN RONAYNE**

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — For the second year in a row, Arizona and Nevada will face cuts in the amount of water they can draw from the Colorado River as the West endures more drought, federal officials announced Tuesday.

The cuts planned for next year will force states to make critical decisions about where to reduce consumption and whether to prioritize growing cities or agricultural areas. Mexico will also face cuts.

But those reductions represent just a fraction of the potential pain to come for the 40 million Americans in seven states that rely on the river. Because the states failed to respond to a federal ultimatum to figure out how to cut their water use by at least 15%, they could face even deeper cuts that the government has said are needed to prevent reservoirs from falling so low they cannot be pumped.

"The states collectively have not identified and adopted specific actions of sufficient magnitude that would stabilize the system," Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton said.

Together, the missed deadline and cuts place officials responsible for providing water to growing cities and farms under renewed pres-



The Colorado River flows through the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai reservation Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, in northwestern Arizona.

Associated Press

sure to plan for a hotter, drier future and a growing population.

Touton has said the additional 15% reduction is necessary to ensure that water deliveries and hydroelectric power are not disrupted. She was noncommittal on Tuesday about whether she planned to impose those cuts unilaterally if the states cannot reach agreement.

She emphasized partnership between federal officials and their counterparts in the seven states and Mexico, but repeatedly declined to say how much time the states will have to reach the deal she requested in June.

For years, cities and farms have diverted more water from the river than flows through it, depleting its reservoirs and raising questions about how it will be divided as water becomes more scarce.

After more than two decades of drought, Arizona, Nevada and Mexico were hit with mandatory cuts for the first time last year. Some of the region's farmers have been paid to leave their fields fallow, while residents of its growing cities have been subjected to conservation measures such as restrictions on grass lawns. But those efforts thus far haven't been enough. The water level at Lake Mead,

the nation's largest man-made reservoir, has plummeted so low that it's currently less than a quarter full and inching dangerously close to a point where not enough water would flow to produce hydropower at the Hoover Dam on the Nevada-Arizona border. For officials in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the cuts and the demand for additional reductions present new challenges and unpopular choices. Officials have been reluctant to propose more draconian water rationing measures or limits on development.

After putting last year's bur-

den on the agricultural industry, Arizona officials will have to decide whether to spread this year's cut to growing cities that rely on the Colorado River, including Scottsdale and Peoria. The two cities get more than half of their water from the Colorado.

The cuts are not expected to have a tangible effect on Nevada, which has already implemented the region's most aggressive conservation policies, including grass bans and rebate programs.

Scorching temperatures and less melting snow in the spring have reduced the amount of water flowing from the Rocky Mountains, where the river originates before it snakes 1,450 miles (2,334 kilometers) southwest and into the Gulf of California.

Already, extraordinary steps have been taken this year to keep water in Lake Powell, the other large Colorado River reservoir, which sits upstream of Lake Mead and straddles the Arizona-Utah border. Water from the lake runs through Glen Canyon Dam, which produces enough electricity to power between 1 million and 1.5 million homes each year. After water levels at Lake Powell reached levels low enough to threaten hydropower production, federal officials said they would hold back some water to ensure the dam could still produce energy. □

Immigration advocates sue LexisNexis over personal data

By **KATHLEEN FOODY**

Associated Press



A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer looks on during an operation in Escondido, Calif., July 8, 2019.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Data broker LexisNexis Risk Solutions allegedly violated Illinois law by collecting and combining extensive personal information and selling it to third parties including federal immigration authorities, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday by immigration advocates.

The result is "a grave threat to civil liberties," the activists and two immigration advocacy groups argued. The lawsuit asks a Cook County judge to prevent the data broker from selling personal information without con-

sent.

The complaint also notes that LexisNexis' Accurint product, which is sold to law enforcement, incorporates information that isn't publicly available, including correctional bookings, vehicle collision records and license plate reader databases.

A representative for Georgia-based LexisNexis Risk Solutions did not immediately reply to a request for comment shortly after the lawsuit was filed.

Immigration advocates have called attention to

a \$22 million contract between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and LexisNexis for that product, revealed in the results of a Freedom of Information Act request. They argue it poses a particular risk to activists and immigrants. Sejal Zota, legal director at Just Futures Law and an attorney on the lawsuit, said the data broker makes it possible for ICE to "instantly access sensitive personal data — all without warrants, subpoenas, any privacy safeguards or any show of reasonableness." □

China sets sanctions on Taiwan figures to punish U.S., island

BEIJING (AP) — China imposed visa bans and other sanctions Tuesday on Taiwanese political figures as it raises pressure on the self-governing island and the U.S. in response to successive congressional visits.

The sanctions come a day after China announced more military exercises in the seas and skies surrounding Taiwan because of what it called "collusion and provocation between the U.S. and Taiwan." There's been no word on the timing and scale of the Chinese exercises.

They were announced the same day a U.S. congressional delegation met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, and after a similar visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-level member of the U.S. government to visit Taiwan in 25 years. The Chinese government objects to Taiwan having any official contact with foreign governments because it considers Taiwan its own territory, and its recent saber rattling has emphasized its threat to take the island by military force.

Pelosi's visit was followed by nearly two weeks of threatening Chinese military exercises that included the firing of missiles over the island and incursions by navy ships and warplanes



In this photo released by the Taiwan Legislative Yuan, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, right, and Legislative Yuan Deputy Speaker Tsai Chi-chang arrive for a meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

across the midline of the Taiwan Strait that has long been a buffer between the sides.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters that China had overreacted with its "provocative and totally unnecessary response to the congressional delegation that visited Taiwan earlier this month." The targets of China's latest sanctions include Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the U.S., Bi-khim Hsiao, and legislators Ker Chien-ming, Koo Li-hsiung, Tsai Chi-

chang, Chen Jiau-hua and Wang Ting-yu, along with activist Lin Fei-fan.

They will be barred from traveling to mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, and from having any financial or personal connections with people and entities on the mainland, according to the ruling Communist Party's Taiwan Work Office. The measures were designed to "resolutely punish" those considered "diehard elements" supporting Taiwan's independence, China's official Xinhua News Agency said.

Premier Su Tseng-chang, leader of the legislature You Si-kun and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu were already on China's sanctions list and will face more restrictions, Xinhua said.

China exercises no legal authority over Taiwan and it's unclear what effect the sanctions would have. China has refused all contact with Taiwan's government since shortly after the 2016 election of Tsai, who was overwhelmingly reelected in 2020.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry tweeted its appreciation

for the most recent congressional visit, adding that "Authoritarian #China can't dictate how democratic #Taiwan makes friends, wins support, stays resilient & shines like a beacon of freedom."

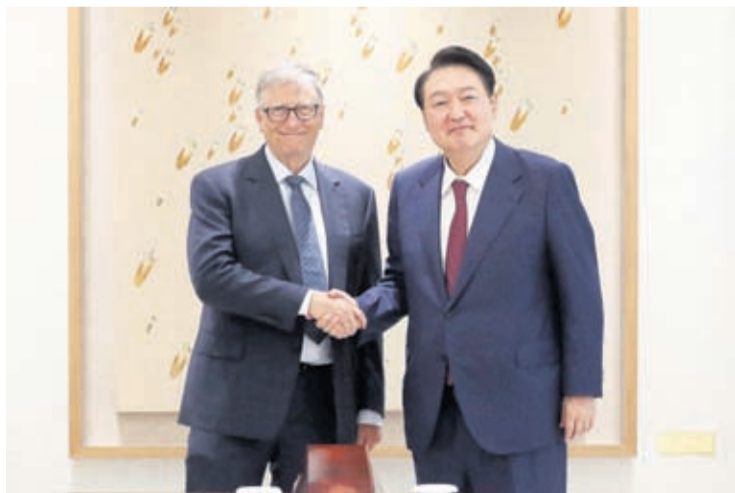
Tsai's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party also controls the legislature, and the vast majority of Taiwanese favor maintaining the status quo of de facto independence amid strong economic and social connections between the sides.

China accuses the U.S. of encouraging the island's independence through the sale of weapons and engagement between U.S. politicians and the island's government. Washington says it does not support independence, has no formal diplomatic ties with the island and maintains that the two sides should settle their dispute peacefully — but it is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself against any attack.

Taiwan has put its military on alert, but has taken no major countermeasures against the Chinese actions. That has been reflected in overriding calm and widespread ambivalence among the public, who have lived under threat of Chinese attack for more than seven decades. □

Gates eyes partnership with South Korea over global health

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Bill Gates on Tuesday called for South Korea to become more involved in international efforts to prevent infectious diseases like COVID-19 as he stressed the need for the world to be better prepared for the next pandemic.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, right, shakes hands with Bill Gates before a meeting at the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

vent infectious diseases like COVID-19 as he stressed the need for the world to be better prepared for the next pandemic.

Representing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea's foreign and health ministries pledging further partnerships in projects aimed at improving public health tools in the developing world and advancing vaccines and treatments for infectious diseases.

Seoul also promised stronger support for key projects backed by the Gates foundation, including the Global Fund, which focuses on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, and the non-profit groups CEPI and GAVI, which along with the World Health Organization co-lead the COVAX distribution program that distributes COVID-19 vaccines to lower-income nations.

Speaking to South Korean lawmakers in Seoul, Gates called for stronger international cooperation, including efforts to develop vaccines that would be effective for a broader range of coronaviruses, to navigate what he described as a "crisis moment" in global health.

He noted South Korea's strength in public health tools, research and vaccine manufacturing and praised the country's pledge to donate \$200 million to COVAX.

"There's a lot we need to do together - we need to reach deep, we need to

build more partnership, we need to encourage the scientists," Gates said in his speech at the National Assembly. "But I am confident that with these steps we can continue to radically improve global health, to cut the number of children dying in half again, to eradicate diseases like polio, measles and malaria, and improve the lives of all humans."

Gates later met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who described government plans to promote the country's bio-health industry and expressed a willingness to further cooperate with the Gates foundation to "improve the health of global citizens." □

Explosions rock Crimea in suspected Ukrainian attack

By **PAUL BYRNE**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Explosions and fires ripped through an ammunition depot in Russian-occupied Crimea on Tuesday in the second suspected Ukrainian attack on the peninsula in just over a week, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people.

Russia blamed the blasts in the village of Mayskoye on an "act of sabotage," without naming the perpetrators.

Separately, the Russian business newspaper *Kommersant* quoted residents as saying plumes of black smoke also rose over an air base in Crimea's Gvardeyskoye.

Ukraine stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility for any of the blasts, including those that destroyed nine Russian planes at another Crimean air base last week.

Russia seized the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and has used it to launch attacks against Ukraine in the war that began nearly six months ago.

If Ukrainian forces were behind the explosions, that would represent a significant escalation in the war. Such attacks could also indicate that Ukrainian operatives are able to penetrate deeply into Russian-occupied territory.



Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, centre, and former Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, centre right, walk during their visit in Bucha near Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. The former leader of the United Nations called on the world Tuesday to honour civilian victims killed during the Russian attack on Kyiv.

Associated Press

In another reported act of sabotage, Russia's Tass news agency quoted the FSB security agency as saying Ukrainian operatives blew up six high-voltage transmission towers earlier this month in Russia's Kursk region, close to Ukraine.

The Kremlin has demanded that Kyiv recognize Crimea as part of Russia as a condition for ending the fighting, while Ukraine has vowed to drive Moscow's forces from the peninsula on the Black

Sea.

Videos posted on social media showed thick columns of smoke rising over raging flames in Mayskoye, and a series of explosions could be heard. The Russian Defense Ministry said a power plant, electrical lines, railroad tracks and apartment buildings were damaged.

"We came out to take a look and saw clouds of smoke coming from the cowshed where the mili-

tary warehouses are," said resident Maksim Moldovskiy. "We stayed there until about 7-8 a.m. Everything was exploding flashes, fragments, debris falling on us. Then the emergency guys came and said they were evacuating everybody."

Crimea's regional leader, Sergei Aksyonov, said two people were injured and more than 3,000 evacuated from two villages.

"The detonations are rather

strong.

Ammunition is strewn all over the ground," he said, adding that several homes burned down.

In what may have been retaliation for the attacks in Crimea, Russian warplanes fired missiles at a military airfield in Zhytomyr, 87 miles (140 kilometers) west of Kyiv, damaging a runway and vehicles, Ukrainian officials reported.

Crimea is a popular summer destination for Russian tourists, and last week's explosions at Crimea's Saki air base sent sunbathers on beaches fleeing as flames and pillars of smoke rose over the horizon.

Ukrainian officials warned Tuesday that Crimea would not be spared the ravages of war.

Rather than a travel destination, "Crimea occupied by Russians is about warehouse explosions and a high risk of death for invaders and thieves," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter.

Russia blamed last week's explosions on an accidental detonation of munitions, but satellite photos and other evidence — including the dispersed blast sites — pointed to a Ukrainian attack, perhaps with anti-ship missiles, military analysts said. □



This file photo taken March 16, 2014 shows a general view of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A law has taken effect in Scotland to ensure period products are available free of charge to anyone who needs them. The Scottish government said it became the first in the world to legally protect

the right to access free period products when its Period Products Act came into force Monday.

Under the new law, schools, colleges and universities as well as local government bodies must make a range

New Scottish law makes period products free for all

of period products such as tampons and sanitary pads available for free in their bathrooms. The Scottish government already invested millions of pounds since 2017 to fund free period products in educational institutions, but the law makes it a legal requirement.

A mobile phone app also helps people find the nearest place such as the local library or community center where they can pick up period products.

"Providing access to free period products is fundamental to equality and dignity, and removes the

financial barriers to accessing them," Scottish Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said.

"This is more important than ever at a time when people are making difficult choices due to the cost of living crisis and we never want anyone to be in a position where they cannot access period products," she added.

The bill, which was passed unanimously in 2020, was introduced by Scottish Parliament lawmaker Monica Lennon, who had campaigned against "period poverty" when someone who needs sanitary prod-

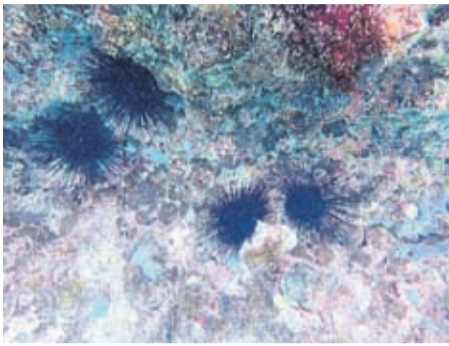
ucts can't afford them.

"Proud of what we have achieved in Scotland," Lennon tweeted Monday. "We are the first but won't be the last."

The Scottish government said its move was world-leading, with countries including South Korea and New Zealand taking similar approaches.

Last year New Zealand's government said all schools in the country were to offer free period products, as part of a drive to help students from poorer families who were missing school because of period poverty. □

Aruba Alert: Sea urchins affected by a fatal disease



Healthy sea urchins attached to the surface of the rocks (Tres Trapi).



Loose individual sea urchins on the sand where they shed their long spines.



Loose sea urchins with heavy loss of spines and tissue and with their skeleton exposed



Fish and other marine species eat dead sea urchins

ORANJESTAD - In the past days, divers spotted many diseased or dying Long-spined sea urchins (*Diadema antillarum*) in many coastal areas surrounding Aruba.

This problem requires the help of the community. According to Mrs. Tatiana Becker, Marine Ecologist, and Environmental Researcher, the shared observation and photos undoubtedly indicate an unknown and fatal disease spreading in the Caribbean and is causing devastating high mortality of sea urchins. In July 2022, Mrs. Tatiana Becker conducted a sea urchin count, right before the discovery of the significant number of dead sea urchins. The count serves as the

baseline to monitor the mortality rate and potential recovery of the infected sea urchins. The high mortality mainly affects the sea urchins, which are indicators of a healthy ecosystem for the corals. Due to the ecological importance of the sea urchins as herbivores (algae eaters) similar to parrotfish, the urchin's health has implications for the tourism sector and fishermen who depend on the coastal ecosystem.

Divers have observed many sea urchins who have lost their tissue and spines in at least 2 locations in Aruba; Tres Trapi and Mangel Halto.

The pictures describe the situation

encountered;

Image 1 - Healthy sea urchins attached to the surface of the rocks (Tres Trapi).

Image 2 - Loose individual sea urchins on the sand where they shed their long spines.

Image 3 - Loose sea urchins with heavy loss of spines and tissue and with their skeleton exposed

Image 4 - Fish and other marine species eat dead sea urchins

Marine conservation activist and Divemaster Albi Valdéz, BSc reported his findings on the website of AGRRA, <https://www.agrra.org/sea-urchin-die-off/>.

While his observations are be-

ing reviewed, the photos and urchin count indicate that the sea urchins in Aruba are not looking good.

They have planned the next count to determine the mortality percentage at Tres Trapi and the Mangel Halto.

It is essential for planning and policy-making to preserve the sea urchins.

The DNM urges all divers to report their observations and send photographs of the sea urchins to the AGRRA. It will verify the presence of the disease and its spread in our surrounding waters. □

Minister of Energy, Glenbert Croes will meet with American government regarding possibility to purchase HFO from Venezuela

ORANJESTAD – During his press conference yesterday, during which he announced a reduction in the price of water and electricity, the minister of Energy mentioned that he will meet shortly with representatives of the government of the United States in the area of Energy, but particularly the Office of Foreign Assets Control OFAC, to see the possibility for Aruba to receive a license to purchase heavy fuel oil from Venezuela for two and a half years, until the Eagle LNG project is ready to start supplying natural gas to water company WEB.

According to a press release from minister of Energy, Labor and Integration, Glenbert Croes, the goal of this request is so that while there is so much uncertainty as to the price of crude oil because of diverse factors, it be possible for Aruba to purchase HFO from Venezuela at a preferential price, which in turn will be transmitted into a substantial reduced fee for water and electricity for the people of Aruba.

According to the minister, there are islands in the Caribbean currently purchasing HFO of Venezuelan origin at a much more favorable price than what Aruba is paying right now. So Croes said he will make this petition in the interest of the people of Aruba, the economy of Aruba, and in the interest of lowering the price for water and electricity on the island, that the

island be allowed to purchase HFO of Venezuelan origin and this way it would be possible to lower the price of water and electricity.

To conclude, minister Glenbert Croes expressed

that he was hope that the efforts he is doing in this area will contribute to the totality, to help reach the moment in which it will be possible to reduce the cost of water and electricity for the entire Aruban community.. □



Guests were in good hands for special collaboration dinner at Infini

Chef Jason Howard joined chef Urvin Croes for a unique event

ORANJESTAD – Last weekend, for three nights only, food lovers were treated to a unique four hands dinner at Infini Aruba with chef Urvin Croes and guest chef Jason Howard. The menu exploded with the highest level of Caribbean cuisine with the perfect wine pairings from Arion Wine Company to create an unforgettable experience.

Chef Jason Howard, born in Barbados but currently based in London, was invited by Infini's creator, chef Urvin Croes to join forces to present very lucky guests with a unique taste of Caribbean flavors. Howard flew to Aruba especially to take part in the four hands dinner.

"We knew each other on social media, basically looking at one another's food", Howard commented. "To be honest it's quite refreshing to find another chef that actually pushes the cuisine at the level that chef Urvin is. It was nice to see that there is someone else out who is pushing the Caribbean flavors."

The menu for the four hands dinner consisted of eight courses, expertly paired with wines presented that night by Kailo Vrolijk from Arion Wine Company.

The dinner was presented with alternating dishes by each chef, starting with Amuses by chef Croes, which included Johnny Cake, Banana Bread, and Annato Tartlet, paired with a delicious Famiglia Pasqua Romeo & Juliet Prosecco Rosé.

The dishes presented by chef Howard included fresh



Snapper paired with El Enemigo Chardonnay. "I had it to be pan-seared, but the quality of Snapper on the island is so beautiful, I said no, we can't really tarnish that skin. So we basically steamed it in some lemon juice, we saved the fish broth and the bones, with some Scotch Bonnet oil that I brewed when I came in, and it was lightly torched. And with that we have some braised cabbage in Scotch bonnet", he explained. The cabbage was a hit with the diners, with many wanting to know more about the technique used for the marinating and braising, which gave it a particularly delicious flavor.

The concept of Infini is that of a chef's table, with seating around the serving table in a cozy environment with a privileged view of the cooking. This experience was precious even for chef Howard. "This is my dream, to be this intimate with the guests, to be speaking with the guests and have them see us finishing food, to prepare the food in front of them. So for me, this is a standard that I would like to get to, but I really was pushed to get to this standard of cuisine as well."

As for surprising Aruban flavors discovered by Howard on the island, he said: "To see how the island uses cornmeal, and different types of cornmeal. We use cornmeal in Barbados, our national dish called Cou-cou, but to see here how simply cornmeal is used, and how delicious it is, it gives me something to work on as well. It was also amazing to see Dutch culture blended in the island as well, and all of this is something that gave me a lot of inspiration." And chef Urvin also found surprising elements through his exchange with Howard. "Basically how I do my sauces", Howard said. "My sauces are not anything that is taken from any cuisine anywhere else. There is a sauce I invented myself." His sauce technique is based on Barbadian cuisine, and this influence is also felt throughout his dishes in his unapologetic use of the Scotch Bonnet. "When [Croes] saw the sauce, it was something that he was very excited about. We've shared and bounced ideas off one another."

Four hands dinner also meant having

two chefs in one kitchen, but it wasn't a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. "He's very easy to work with", Howard commented. "To be honest, if you were in the kitchen today with us, it wouldn't feel like it was any chef, it felt like there was just comrades, just everyone has a say. People usually think that kitchens are manic, but today it was quiet, everyone sat down and we had dinner together, we talked, laughed."

The event was planned twice and had to be cancelled twice because of the pandemic, and both those times it had sold-out. But third time was the charm, and the dinner finally took place with eagerly awaiting fans.

"People have been very encouraging on social media. Aruba is an island I never would've imagined was so culinary-inclined. Every place I've eaten here, the food has been amazing." Howard also had compliments for the level of service on Aruba. "I've had service all over the world, and I would say that Aruba has the service standard that a lot of other islands would actually long for."

From the sourdough bread baked locally by T2Pan, Chef Howard's Amberjack to the beautifully plated Flower of chef Croes, guests enjoyed lamb, duck, and finished with a double-dose of dessert, with Croes' black cake, a take on a traditional Aruban favorite, and Howard's plantain soufflé, with a mind-bending sweet potato coffee shot, a delightful experience to remember. □





infini
by Urvin Croes

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Better transition for Aruba students moving to the Netherlands

Oranjestad - The Ministry of Education and the Arubahuis will tackle the housing issue for students going to the Netherlands next year.

There is currently a long waiting time for student housing in the Netherlands. Lack of housing is a problem for foreign and local students in the Netherlands.

This housing problem is so big that some Dutch universities advised students who did not find a place yet, to postpone their travel to the Netherlands this year. According to the Prime Minister, this year, about 40 Aruba students had no permanent place to stay before traveling to the Netherlands but have found temporary housing as of September 1, 2022.

These students stay with family members, friends, or in student hotels temporarily. There are student hotels in various cities, but they are more expensive. Some students

find a place but decline because the room is too small or because they want something more comfortable. Therefore they need to start looking for housing all over again. It is important to state that no student was left homeless.

Some students opted to travel to the Netherlands without having a permanent place to stay but did not want to miss this scholar year. It is essential to have an address in the Netherlands to register in the civil registry since the Netherlands has strict rules. 'As long as you do not have a home address to register, you will not be able to open a bank account and can not sign any agreement for internet or cell-phone service, etc.

The role of Arubahuis with regards to housing

The Ministry of Education and the Arubahuis will prepare students better for the housing issue next year. In some cities in the Netherlands, students can apply for housing at



least 1 year ahead of the scholar year. It will increase their chance of getting an apartment or room in time. The Arubahuis is currently not attending with housing for students but will include housing information on their website and provide guidance for upcoming students.

The government of Aruba is reorganizing the Arubahuis, and with this reorganization, they want to change the role of the Arubahuis to meet citizens' demands. It includes a better transition for Aruba students arriving in the Netherlands for their higher education. The Government is also working with the State Secretary of the Nether-

lands, Alexandra van Huffelen to grant Aruba students their citizen service number (BSN) before they arrive in the Netherlands. Having a BSN number in advance allows the students to make the required arrangements in time, including housing since it can take between 3 to 4 weeks.

However, it depends on the Dutch government, since giving a BSN number in advance is quite significant. The Prime Minister of Aruba mentioned that they are discussing this with the Dutch leaders and hope to achieve this eventually.

The current housing situation in the Netherlands requires a more active role of the Arubahuis to assist Aruban students, but this can change in the upcoming years. The Arubahuis can adjust its task according to the situation. For now, it requires a more active role, and the Arubahuis are addressing this issue to accommodate the demand. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Arubans native grounding

Episode CLXVII- 167

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, discover more reasons to love Aruba behind our beaches and liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.

In this episode we want to highlight the importance of walking barefoot on grass, sand, dirt, stones, etc. and let these elements "massage" your feet, since walking barefoot will give you multiple benefits: it activates your circulatory system, improves your nervous system and at the same time, if you walk barefoot on the beach, the salt and sand will act as natural exfoliants. When the waves break on our feet and legs, it will also help us a lot to tone our muscles.

Actually in certain places the custom of walking and exercising barefoot remains. Walking barefoot is called Grounding or Earthing which means "to make land". Various scientific investigations have revealed a surprisingly positive factor of nature and that is that walking barefoot –whether on grass, sand, earth, stones, etc. is especially beneficial not only promotes a better perception of the space in which you are but definitely "restores your natural" walking pattern, also known as our gait."

In addition to improving control of the position of your foot when it hits the ground, it also improves balance, proprioception and body awareness, which can even help relieve certain joint pain.

Orthopedically walking barefoot leads to better foot mechanics, which leads to better movement of the hips and knees in addition to maintaining adequate



strength and stability within the muscles. But if you decide to start walking or exercising barefoot, you need to consider the surface you're walking on.

So we suggest you enjoy earthing during your vacation and connect your body to the special energies of our island. Each person is able to tune in with the energies of the Earth, animals, plants and the sea.

In addition, we all have the ability to

transmute the energies that surround us and in one way or another we also have the ability to transmit them. There is something soothing about the sound of the sea, the sound of waves gently lapping on the beach, the smell of salt water, and the sensation of stepping on warm sand. It is an environment that can have a profound impact on our brain and mental health, as it immediately puts us at ease.

Additionally, the sound of waves can help us achieve a meditative state, which has been shown to "heal" and strengthen us. Numerous studies help us appreciate why the beach can be the number one destination to relax and recharge our minds and transmit our best energies to others!

If you love Aruba interested in its origins and its cultural heritage, we invite you to be part of an exclusive visit at Etnia Nativa, an off the tourist grid, private residential houses sharing collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facility itself is the result of the transforming and recycling of materials.

Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his museum/ home. The only and authentic native Aruban cultural encounter! Live the experience. Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com



Minister of Justice announces Afl. 600,000 project for homeless addicts

ORANJESTAD – During a recent press conference, minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon announced that the Council of Ministers approved a sum of Afl. 600,000 to start with a project dedicated specially to dealing with the problem of homeless addicts in Aruba.

"I am standing here today with a lot of satisfaction to announce that last Friday, the Council of Ministers approved Afl. 600,000 to deal with this problem", Tjon said. He explained that these funds will be allocated to Stichting FMAA, which in the future will be Stichting Hunto ('Together Foundation'), together with SPD (Department of Social Psychiatry) to execute this project in a responsible and integral manner to deal with the problem of addicts on the streets.

Before giving any details, the minister thanked all professionals present at the press conference and also the steering group GGZ. Studies in the past have noted that there is a need to close the gap between mental health aspects and addiction aspects.

Tjon commented that he has spoken to professionals on the field, and more and more they speak of a double diagnosis, which means that the clients don't have challenges on one aspect only, being addiction, but they also have challenges on the mental health aspect. This is why all these projects are born from the steering group GGZ.

Tjon indicated that seeing the multiannual plan of the Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs, this project, 'meddling', deals also with homeless addicts in a proactive manner on the street, it is part of it and this was already announced back in 2021 during the debate for the 2022 budget.

"What's good about this project is that this aspect will be dealt in a durable manner. There are funds set aside that were already approved for 2022." He continued explaining that on the 1st of September, the team of professionals will have to begin their work. But at the same time, there is also approval for funds to continue in 2023, with a plan for 2024 where Stichting Hunto will make a request based on their regular subsidy to continue work in this area.

These funds mean that five more



professionals can come on board to work on this project full-time. This means that in a proactive manner they will approach the homeless addicts and make sure to place them in one of the centers.

Regarding the centers, Tjon explained that in the beginning this will be the centre at Meiveld, but in the context of this project, an extra sum of Afl. 100,000 to refurbish four rooms in Centro Colorado, four rooms which mean 16 to 24 beds where the addicts can receive the help they need.

Tjon commented that obviously there are other aspects that need to be taken into consideration. When a person is taken from the streets, they must receive the care that they need, which also includes aspects like food and hygiene products that they might need.

"In the context of this project we took into consideration all the funds I have mentioned in order to take a durable and structural approach to this problem", he highlighted.

Tjon explained that this is one part of it. There is a long term vision, which is an aspect that was

reached by steering group GGZ together with Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO), but there is also a short-term vision and the abovementioned projects were born from these plans.

Tjon commented also that today a project will launch for the infrastructure of Stichting Hunto, where SPD together with FMAA (Foundation for the Management of Addiction) will be housed in one building, so that the processes are better aligned and they can provide better care to all those in need; not only adults, but also children and young persons. Soon, other projects will be announced. Tjon commented that FADA (Foundation Anti-Drug Aruba) has some projects that they will announce shortly, as well as another project by SPD. And on the side of education, there are also some initiatives starting.

"Afl. 600,000 was earmarked to deal with homeless addicts, particularly in the city centre. This will obviously increase security, will reduce nuisance for all those visiting our centre, and will create a more beautiful city", Tjon emphasized.

Regarding the current legislation which does not force any addict to register or seek help, but rather keeps it voluntary, Tjon indicated that the laws are staying the same. He said that the long term strategic plan has various groups working, and one of them is working specifically on legislation. The minister highlighted that legislative processes take a long time, but attention is also being given to them.

He added that during various conversations with all professionals on the field, the aspect of 'meddling' is a proven concept. Even though receiving help is voluntary, the professionals in charge of providing help will receive specialized training on how to approach the subjects and execute the project.

"A proven concept in the Netherlands, a proven concept also in Bonaire where the results of scientific investigations show that when you as a professional manage to convince the person needing help based on the tools you received during training, the probability that the person will succeed with their rehabilitation is also greater", the minister finalized.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Nimble

1 Diminishes

5 Emotional shock

11 Olympian leader

12 Assailed

13 Tenant's fee

14 Monticello, e.g.

15 Compass trace

16 Watch part

17 17-syllable poem

19 Deep hole

22 VCR button

24 Radiate

26 Finish last

27 Some bills

28 The Grinch's creator

30 Yoda's creator

31 Swiss peak

32 "— the Raven ..."

34 Put on the wall

35 Longoria of TV

38 Frightened

41 Manual reader

42 South Dakota capital

43 Cooking fat

44 Fitting

DOWN

1 Pound of poems

2 Saloon staple

3 Gathers in a cluster

4 Fast plane

5 Fine-tune

6 Save payment

8 Hagen of the theater

9 Small rug

10 Finished off

16 In shape

18 Good pair

19 Enlivens, as text

F	A	D	E			B	O	A	R	S
A	P	I	N	G		I	N	L	E	T
C	E	N	S	U	S	T	A	K	E	R
E	X	E		I	T	S		A	L	A
S	E	R	E	N	A		S	L	I	P
	S	O	B	E	R		P	I	N	S
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D	E	E	D			K	N	E	A	D
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G	I	N	G	E	R	B	A	K	E	R
E	S	T	E	E			O	V	E	R
S	H	O	T	S			A	R	E	S

Yesterday's answer

20 Inkling

21 Thomas Hardy

22 "Frozen" queen

23 Singer Billy

25 Mark as deleted

29 Knight's attendant

30 Lumber unit

33 Beneath

34 Plucked instrument

36 Turn suddenly

37 Showily pretentious

38 Phone download

39 Fragrant tree

40 Old auto

41 Battleship letters

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17	18					19	20	21
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			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

8-17

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q Z K Z I I N X O U

FRKCMHFXGZU XOU XEAXHU

XOU I BRV LC XONVXNI

JMZOORO URNMZ KZMGRO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU CAN DANCE AND BE FREE AND NOT BE EMBARRASSED, YOU CAN RULE THE WORLD. — AMY POEHLER

Millennial Money: A scarcity money mindset can cost you



U.S. \$100 bills are seen, Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Marple Township, Pa.

Associated Press

By SARA RATHNER of Nerd-Wallet

We all saw it at grocery stores in 2020. The shelves, once brimming with toilet paper and hand soap, were bare. We hid in our homes, deep-cleaning every surface, occasionally braving the threat of COVID-19 to hunt down the last remaining bottle of hand sanitizer in a 50-mile radius. We felt out of control, so we controlled what we could: the contents of our kitchens and bathroom cabinets.

Today, this fear of scarcity plays out differently, due to rising prices, a volatile stock market and whispers of a looming recession. We've simply rolled one set of worries into another, continuing to assume all our resources are scarce, whether that's true for us or not. If the current situation has you avoiding any long-term planning or fearing spending any money, even on things you need, you're experiencing a scarcity mindset. This basically means you view your resources like money, food and employment opportunities as limited. And when you're concerned about access to these things, it's natural to want to grab onto whatever you can.

At times, this impulse is useful. "It helped humans survive back in the day when we faced existential threats from nature," says Courtney Cardin, co-founder of Aura Finance, a financial wellness and investment platform that's currently in

the private testing phase. "Everyone who's here had an ancestor who benefited from a scarcity mindset." But when a scarcity mindset isn't rooted in a real need to avoid hungry lions or preserve a season's worth of food without refrigeration, it can work against you, persuading you to make financial choices that aren't actually in your best interest.

THE EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF A SCARCITY MINDSET

Factors beyond your control, like inflation or supply chain shortages, can limit your access to the things you need and make it harder to achieve your financial goals. "You can imagine it's not a very pleasant place to be, to be kind of on guard, thinking that you've got to keep everything that you have, that you're going to lose it in some way," says Susan Greenhalgh, an accredited financial counselor and founder of Mind Your Money LLC in Providence, Rhode Island. "That's kind of a vigilant standpoint, and that's a very difficult standpoint to enjoy life from." The ongoing stress can cause you to hold onto cash in a savings account because you're afraid to invest, potentially limiting your ability to grow your net worth over time. Or you could take the opposite approach, spending money like there's no tomorrow because you worry items you need will disappear from stores. When you're

anxious about the short term, it's hard to plan a few years or even months ahead.

You may even make ineffective or risky moves to try to lock in some wins. "Every product you see out there is a potential solution for you," says George Blount, founder of nBalance Financial, a financial therapy and wellness practice in Boston. "The lottery's going to look a lot better. Cryptocurrency is going to look a lot better." But cryptocurrency may or may not be a good fit for your overall financial picture, and only one lucky person won that billion-dollar payout. Unless you're reading this from a lounge chair on your new superyacht, it probably wasn't you.

HOW TO PUT YOUR FEAR TO WORK

Though anxiety feels awful, it can be a productive emotion that spurs you into action. Reading through some recent bank and credit card statements, for example, can give you a better sense of where your money goes each month and where you might be able to cut back on spending. Setting up automatic money transfers into an emergency savings account can help you feel more confident that you'll be able to handle an unexpected expense. Or perhaps you update your resume because you're worried about layoffs at your company. Whether or not that ends up happening, you'll be prepared to job hunt at a moment's notice. What's not productive is obsessively tracking stock prices, falling for get-rich-quick schemes or constantly monitoring the news.

There's a lot of yelling, often by people who don't totally understand what's going on but have opinions about it anyway. Give yourself the time and space to determine what you truly need and value, so you can set appropriate money goals and make a plan if things don't go the way you hope they will. □

MacKenzie Scott gives \$39 million to Junior Achievement USA

By GLENN GAMBOA
AP Business Writer

Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$38.8 million to Junior Achievement USA and 26 local operations — the largest single gift in its 103-year history the national education nonprofit announced Tuesday.

Like all of Scott's nearly \$12 billion in donations since 2019, her gift to Junior Achievement USA is unrestricted, meaning the Colorado-based nonprofit, which prepares students for adulthood by teaching them financial literacy, career skills and business ownership training, can use the funds for any project it wants. Jack E. Kosakowski, Junior Achievement USA's president and CEO, said the gift was "a huge, pleasant surprise" and raised morale throughout the organization. Junior Achievement USA will receive \$10 million, while 26 local Junior Achievement operations will split \$28.8 million based on the evaluation of Scott and her team.

It is not clear whether the gift to Junior Achievement marks a new run of donations from Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett. The author and philanthropist does not comment on her donations beyond her Medium blog, which has not been updated since March. Her gifts are only



In this photo provided by Junior Achievement USA, volunteer Cammy Elquist LoRé teaches a Colorado Springs, Colo., high school class program that helps prepare them for handling finances in the adult world, on March 23, 2018.

announced if and when the groups receiving them confirm the donations. Kosakowski said he is thrilled by Scott's unrestricted gift because it can be used to modernize the group's technology infrastructure, a need that is rarely high on most donors' priority lists. The \$10 million will also help expand the nonprofit's digital educational offerings and add volunteers in currently underserved areas. "We support all 102 of our local offices across the country, so this is going to really help us streamline our operations," Kosakowski told The Associated Press. "Ultimately, as we get more efficient, it's gonna allow us

to use more of our traditional donor dollars for directly serving the young people that we work with." Scott, currently worth about \$42 billion according to Forbes, has signed the Giving Pledge, a promise from many billionaires to donate more than half their wealth. As part of her 2019 divorce from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who was then the richest person in the world, Scott received 4% of Amazon's shares. Since then, she has worked diligently to make unrestricted donations quickly. Initially, Scott focused on funding that would generate more racial and gender equity, with substantial

donations to numerous HBCUs and groups like the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which received \$275 million from her in March. □

Associated Press

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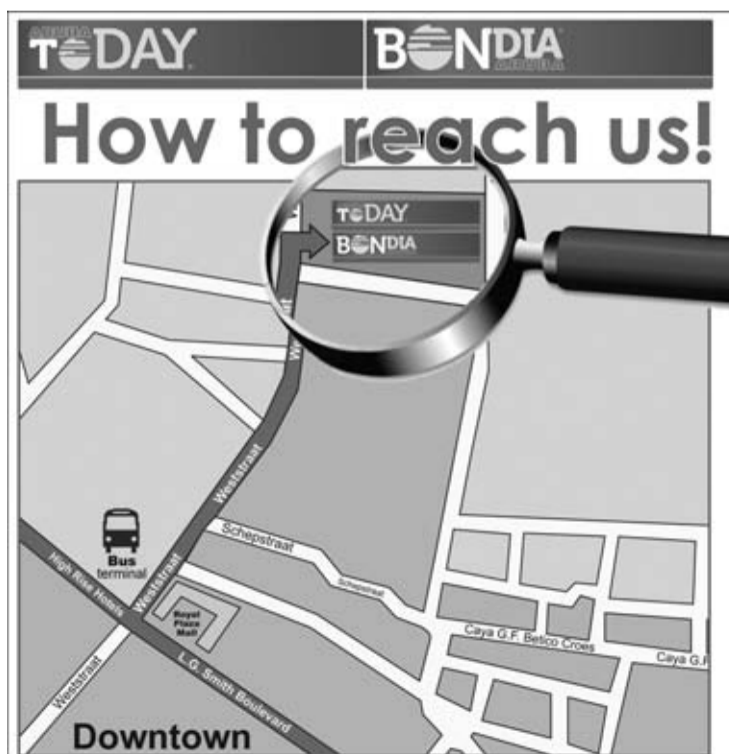
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Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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Former Israeli PM Netanyahu has memoir coming in November

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has a memoir coming out this fall. "Bibi: My Story" will be published Nov. 22, three weeks after parliamentary elections are to be held in Israel. "Born a year after the founding of the Jewish state, I have dedicated my life to combat the forces that seek its destruction and make peace with those that do not," Netanyahu, 72, said in a statement released Tuesday by Threshold Editions, a division of Simon & Schuster that publishes conservative books.

"My story is one of tragedy and triumph, setbacks and successes, lessons learned and loved ones cherished. It is woven with that of Israel, which has proven that faith and resolve can overcome insurmountable odds to forge a brilliant future." Other Threshold authors have included former Vice President Dick Cheney and former President Donald Trump, a close ally of Netanyahu's while he was in the White House. Netanyahu has previously written "A Durable Peace" and



This book cover image released by Gallery Books shows "Bibi: My Story" by Benjamin Netanyahu. This book cover image released by Gallery Books shows "Bibi: My Story" by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Associated Press

"Fighting Terrorism," among other books.

Before being ousted in elections in 2021, Netanyahu was Israel's longest-serving leader — and its most polarizing, supported and condemned for his hard-line stance against the Palestinians. He now stands at the center of Israel's protracted political crisis, where a cluster of parties has refused to sit with him in government because he is on trial for corruption: Israel has held five elections in less than four years.

Netanyahu's 12-year tenure included heightened settlement building in the occupied West Bank and the presiding over three wars against the Hamas militant group ruling Gaza. He was also a leading opponent of the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and several world powers, including the United States. Iran resumed some of its nuclear activities after Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018.

Netanyahu is the son of a prominent Zionist and educator, Benzion Netanyahu, and brother of Jonathan Netanyahu, who was killed while leading the famed 1976 rescue of hostages

on a hijacked plane in Entebbe, Uganda. A longtime leader of the nationalist Likud party, Benjamin Netanyahu also served as prime minister from 1996-1999.

According to Threshold, "Bibi" will range from Netanyahu's early years to "his singular perspective on the geopolitics of the Middle East" and "his negotiations with Presidents Clinton, Obama, and Trump to secure the future of his country."

Known as a political wizard able to outmaneuver his opponents, Netanyahu has vowed to regain his old job. But he currently faces charges in three separate cases, including allegations that while in office, he accepted gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from Hollywood film producer Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer. He is also accused of trying to orchestrate positive coverage in a major Israeli paper in exchange for promoting legislation that would have hampered the news outlet's chief rival, a free pro-Netanyahu daily.

Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing. □

Film academy apologizes to Littlefeather for 1973 Oscars

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly 50 years after Sacheen Littlefeather stood on the Academy Awards stage on behalf of Marlon Brando to speak about the depiction of Native Americans in Hollywood films, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences apologized to her for the abuse she endured. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on Monday said that it will host Littlefeather, now 75, for an evening of "conversation, healing and celebration" on Sept. 17.

When Brando won best actor for "The Godfather," Littlefeather, wearing buckskin dress and moccasins, took the stage, becoming the first Native American woman ever to do so at



Sacheen Littlefeather appears at the Academy Awards ceremony to announce that Marlon Brando was declining his Oscar as best actor for his role in "The Godfather," on March 27, 1973.

Associated Press

the Academy Awards. In a 60-second speech, she explained that Brando could

not accept the award due to "the treatment of American Indians today by the film industry." Some in the audience booed her. John Wayne, who was backstage at the time, was reportedly furious. The 1973 Oscars were held during the American Indian Movement's two-month occupation of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. In the years since, Littlefeather has said she's been mocked, discriminated against and personally attacked for her brief Academy Awards appearance. In making the announcement, the Academy Museum shared a letter sent June 18 to Littlefeather by David Rubin, academy president, about the iconic Oscar moment. Rubin called Littlefeather's speech "a powerful state-

ment that continues to remind us of the necessity of respect and the importance of human dignity."

"The abuse you endured because of this statement was unwarranted and unjustified," wrote Rubin. "The emotional burden you have lived through and the cost to your own career in our industry are irreparable. For too long the courage you showed has been unacknowledged. For this, we offer both our deepest apologies and our sincere admiration." Littlefeather, in a statement, said it is "profoundly heartening to see how much has changed since I did not accept the Academy Award 50 years ago." "Regarding the Academy's apology to me, we Indians are very patient people — it's only

been 50 years!" said Littlefeather. "We need to keep our sense of humor about this at all times. It's our method of survival."

At the Academy Museum event in Los Angeles, Littlefeather will sit for a conversation with producer Bird Runningwater, co-chair of the academy's Indigenous Alliance. In a podcast earlier this year with Jacqueline Stewart, a film scholar and director of the Academy Museum, Littlefeather reflected on what compelled her to speak out in 1973.

"I felt that there should be Native people, Black people, Asian people, Chicano people. I felt there should be an inclusion of everyone," said Littlefeather. "A rainbow of people that should be involved in creating their own image." □

Breanna Stewart earns AP WNBA Player of the Year honors

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

Breanna Stewart is always looking for ways to improve her game. This season, her efforts culminated in more career milestones.

The Seattle Storm forward led the WNBA in scoring for the first time in her career, averaging 21.8 points, and Tuesday she became the first player to repeat as The Associated Press WNBA Player of the Year.

Stewart received six votes for AP Player of the Year by the 10-member media panel narrowly edging A'ja Wilson, who received the other four votes. Stewart is the first two-time winner of the award since the AP voting began in 2016.

"It's an honor to be recognized as the best in the league," said Stewart, who also was the 2018 player of the year. "Since I started in the WNBA in 2016, just trying to get better. Elevate myself and the team, the league as a whole. A big honor, but we're motivated by more and that's trying to win a championship."

Stewart's fourth-seeded Seattle Storm begin their playoff run on Thursday in a best-of-three series against Washington.

The WNBA will announce its league awards over the course of the postseason, which begins Wednesday. Wilson was selected as the AP's Defensive Player of the Year, edging Alyssa Thomas



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart brings the ball up against the Minnesota Lynx during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, in Seattle

Associated Press

and Natasha Cloud. Wilson anchored the Aces' defense, averaging 1.9 blocks and 1.4 steals a game.

Her Aces' teammate Jackie Young was chosen the most improved player.

Tanisha Wright became the first former WNBA player to win the AP Coach of the Year award. She was one of six former players to be head coaches in the league this season — five led their teams to the playoffs.

"It's good practice to have former players on the bench whether they are head coaches or assistant coaches," Wright said.

"We've come up through the fire and put our stamp on the WNBA. I'm proud to be part of that group of players that have played in this league and impacted it in a different way now."

Other AP winners included: — Sixth Woman of the Year. Brionna Jones was a unanimous choice a year after winning the AP's Most Improved Player. She averaged 13.8 points, 5.1 rebounds and 1.2 steals for Connecticut.

— Comeback Player of the Year. Alyssa Thomas earned the award after missing all but two games during the regular season last year be-

cause of an Achilles injury that she suffered in January 2021. Thomas averaged 13.4 points, 8.2 rebounds and 6.1 assists.

— Rookie of the Year. Rhyne Howard was the No. 1 pick of the Atlanta Dream and a near unanimous choice the award. Howard averaged 16.2 points and 4.6 rebounds this season, helping Atlanta win six more games than last season.

"Rhy put us on her back and made a statement for herself and the organization and franchise," Wright said. "Carry that load and do it with the grace and poise she did it with, I'm su-

per proud of her and her accomplishments."

— All Rookie Team. Howard was joined on the AP all-rookie team by Shakira Austin of Washington, Rebekah Gardner of Chicago, NaLyssa Smith of Indiana and Sam Thomas of Phoenix.

— All-WNBA Teams. Stewart and Wilson were unanimous first-team selections. Joining them on the first-team are Candace Parker, Chicago; Kelsey Plum, Las Vegas; and Sabrina Ionescu, New York. The second team: Jonquel Jones, Connecticut; Nneka Ogumike, Los Angeles; Alyssa Thomas, Connecticut; Courtney Vandersloot, Chicago; and Skylar Diggins-Smith, Phoenix.

POWER RANKINGS:

Las Vegas finished the year atop the power poll. Chicago, Connecticut and Seattle followed the Aces. Washington was fifth with Dallas, New York and Phoenix rounding out the top eight. Minnesota, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Indiana finished off the poll.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Wilson of Las Vegas earned the final AP Player of the Week honors after averaging 20.3 points, 10 rebounds and 3.3 assists to help the Aces go 3-0 and clinch the top seed in the playoffs. Other players receiving votes included Ionescu of New York, Stewart of Seattle and Chelsea Gray of the Aces. □

Padres switch Tatis bobblehead giveaway to Soto shirt night

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Padres have replaced a planned Fernando Tatis Jr. bobblehead night with a Juan Soto T-shirt giveaway after the superstar shortstop was banned 80 games Friday following a positive test for a performance-enhancing drug.

Tatis, a 23-year-old sensation and one of the brightest stars in all of Major League Baseball, was on the cusp of returning to the Padres from a broken wrist that had sidelined him all season. He was on track to rejoin the team well before

the Sept. 7 bobblehead night — until the positive test.

Instead, the Padres will offer fans shirts in the club's City Connect color scheme with Soto's name and No. 22 on the back before they play the Arizona Diamondbacks. The team announced the change Tuesday.

Soto, also 23 and one of baseball's most well-known young faces, was acquired from the Washington Nationals in a blockbuster deadline deal Aug. 2.

The Padres' City Connect jerseys, which they wear for

Friday night home games, feature vivid colors that celebrate the cross-border culture of San Diego and Tijuana. MLB said Tatis tested positive for Clostebol, an anabolic steroid. Tatis said he accidentally took a medication to treat ringworm that contained the banned substance. Several teammates were critical of Tatis following Friday's announcement, including pitcher Mike Clevinger, who talked about being "disappointed" in Tatis and hoping the shortstop realizes "it's about more than just him right now." □



San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. looks out from the dugout prior to the team's baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies on June 25, 2022, in San Diego.

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AP sources: Tiger to meet with top players against LIV Golf

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — The PGA Tour is in Delaware for the first time and the buzz still surrounded Tiger Woods, even if he didn't have clubs and might not be seen.

Woods was scheduled to come to Wilmington Country Club on Tuesday for a private meeting of top players to discuss the threat of Saudi-funded LIV Golf, according to two people aware of the plans at the BMW Championship.

They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the privacy of the meeting. One person invited to the meeting said it was to get on the same page against LIV Golf, along with taking more ownership in the direction of the PGA Tour.

The meeting led to a previously scheduled Players Advisory Council meeting being moved up Tuesday afternoon to leave time for the private meeting.

"There is a player meeting, but that's all I can tell you about that," Jon Rahm said. It was not clear if PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan would be involved. He met with the players informally last week following a hearing in which a federal judge denied a request by three LIV Golf players seeking to play in the PGA Tour postseason.



Tiger Woods of the US on the 11th hole during the first round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Thursday July 14, 2022.

Monahan also met with the players a week after the U.S. Open to details plans for big increases in prize money on the PGA Tour, qualifying changes and a new schedule that will return to a January start to the season in 2024.

"I'm not sure what, if anything, will change, what will be the result of it," Patrick Cantlay said. "I think it's good that a lot of the players are getting together to discuss the situation out here, especially given the current circumstances."

Woods has been a strong opponent of LIV Golf. The rival league's leader, Greg Norman, confirmed in an interview with Fox News last month that Woods was offered in the range of \$700 to \$800 million to take part.

Norman said that was before he was hired to run LIV Golf. Norman and Woods have never been close, going back to when Woods arrived on the PGA Tour and instantly became the biggest star golf had seen in generations.

Woods was particularly forceful at the British Open last month when he said

of Norman not being invited to festivities around the 150th Open, "Greg has done some things that I don't think is in the best interest of our game."

He said he disagreed with players getting enormous signing bonuses to defect to LIV Golf, saying they have turned their backs on the tour that made them famous.

The PGA Tour has reacted to the depth of Saudi funding with a \$50 million bonus pool called the Player Impact Program that pays 10 leading players based on how much attention they get. Some players, such as Cantlay, the defending FedEx Cup champion, don't like the program.

Also in the works is a series of overseas tournaments at the end of the year that will reward the top performers. The tour hasn't announced set details or a sponsor. LIV Golf has played three events offering \$25 million apiece in prize money to a group of players that include Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Phil Mickelson and Bryson DeChambeau. It resumes its eight-tournament schedule after the FedEx Cup ends next week. □

Associated Press



Mary Peltola leaves a voting booth while early voting, Aug. 12, 2022, in Anchorage, Alaska. Peltola, a Democrat, faces Republicans, Nick Begich and Sarah Palin, in a special election Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, to fill the remainder of the U.S. House term left vacant by Don Young's death in March. Peltola is also a candidate in Tuesday's U.S. House primary, seeking a full two-year term.

Associated Press

NBA schedule won't have games on Election Day this year

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA will be off on Election Day.

The league's schedule for the coming season will have all 30 teams playing on Nov. 7, the night before the midterm elections. The NBA is hoping teams use that night as an opportunity to encourage fans to get out and vote, plus amplify the need for civic engagement.

ment.

But on Nov. 8, which is Election Day, no NBA teams have games scheduled. Teams are being encouraged to share election information — such as registration deadlines — with their fan bases in the weeks leading up to Nov. 8.

"The scheduling decision came out of the NBA family's focus on promoting nonpartisan civic engagement and encouraging fans to make a plan to vote during midterm elections," the league said Tuesday.

All 435 U.S. House seats will be up for grabs on Nov. 8, along with more than 30 U.S. Senate seats and gubernatorial races.

Many players, including LeBron James, were involved in voting registration drives and other get-out-the-vote initiatives. □